

**Amendments to the claims are as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight device, comprising:  
a light source, and  
a light guide plate for introducing light components from the light source from an incident surface provided on an end surface to emit from an emitting surface thereof,  
wherein the emitting surface of the light guide plate has a plurality of wedge-shape grooves in stripes in a plan view and a light diffusion surface having micro-protrusions formed between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves.
2. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~an~~the extended direction of the wedge-shaped grooves formed in the emitting surface of the light guide plate is parallel to the incident surface of the light guide plate.
3. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~an~~the extended direction of the micro-protrusions formed in the emitting surface of the light guide plate is parallel to the incident surface of the light guide plate or is perpendicular to the incident surface of the light guide plate.
4. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of a depth  $D_b$  of the wedge-shaped grooves formed in the emitting surface of the light guide plate and ~~or~~ a distance  $P_b$  between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves varies in accordance with at least one ofthe distance from the light source and ~~aer~~the brightness distribution of anthe in-plane direction of the light guide plate.

5. (Original) A backlight device according to Claim 4, wherein the depth  $D_b$  of the wedge-shaped grooves far from the light source is deeper than that of the wedge-shaped grooves close to the light source.

6. (Original) A backlight device according to Claim 4, wherein the distance  $P_b$  between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves far from the light source is shorter than that between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves close to the light source.

7. (Original) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein a diffusive reflector having micro-irregularities having light reflectivity formed on a base surface is formed such that the micro-irregularities-formed surface is opposite to another surface of the light guide plate.

8. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein a light directivity adjusting sheet having a plurality of pyramid-shaped bodies formed on a base body is formed on the emitting surface of the light guide plate such that the tips of the pyramid-shaped bodies are directed to a direction~~the opposite to that~~direction to the light guide plate, and the light directivity adjusting sheet controls the directivities of the transmitted light components in at least two different directions among the light components emitted from the emitting surface of the light guide plate and transmitted through the light directivity adjusting sheet.

9. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 8, wherein micro-irregularities having light diffusivity are formed on the emitting surface of the light directivity adjusting sheet facing the light guide plate.

10. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein at~~the~~ thickness of the light guide plate far from the light source is thinner than that of the light guide plate close to the light source.

11. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a middle light guide body arranged along the end surface of the light guide plate and a point light source arranged in the end surface of athe longitudinal direction of the middle light guide body.

12. (Original) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a backlight device according to Claim 1, and  
a liquid crystal display unit illuminated from the back surface by the backlight device.